

A Revival of Blessing

Oct. 28, 1934.

the United Society of Free Willers

Offer the sacrifice of righteousness
in the Lord.

A Revival of Decency.

Neh. 5:15 So did not I because of the fear of the Lord.

Intro. Nehemiah, as Gov. of Judah, refused to collect from the people what he was legally entitled to, because, as he says in the text, for fear of the Lord. Because the people were suffering injustice and were in a state of dire want, Nehemiah refused to take what was coming to him. He had a moral sense of God's justice.

Our modern age has largely lost its moral sense. The present-day arrogance of vulgarity, the popularity of the low and lascivious, the exploitation of sex and the triumph of the criminal element in our jazz-age has muzzled, has about stifled the influence of common decency. Under the familiar plea that "everybody is doing it" the voice of moral decency ^{is} can no longer be heard. heeded.

Our present immoral or non-moral attitude has not arisen suddenly.

4/ A steady propaganda of a perverted philosophy of life has been carried on through many generations.

It goes back to the ancient Greek sophists. It cropped out during the Renaissance in writers like Montaigne. Its modern appearance is to be found in the writings of John Locke, who in his "Human Understanding" says that there is "no limit to the variations in moral standards and no agreement in the conscience of mankind." Our rapid growth in knowledge through the sciences and the breakdown of authority in religion has resulted in the moral debacle in which we now find ourselves.

Do not misunderstand me - I do not blame our scientific knowledge for the loss of our moral sense.

Knowledge is power as much as wealth is power. It has come to us so rapidly that it has turned over our heads. Like inheriting a fortune often ruins a person.

31 We are prone to blame the economic system for all our ills today. We hear on all sides that Capitalism has collapsed. The real cause of our ills goes deeper. What actually has collapsed is the moral integrity of individuals.

We have as much wealth as ever and we have the means to produce still greater wealth - there is plenty for everybody but we now remain in the throes of the depression because of distrust - the people lack confidence because they can no longer trust one another. They ~~do not~~ ^{cannot} trust one another because conscience, the fear of the Lord, reverence for the spiritual value of life has largely disappeared.

The New Trend towards Decency.

"The Legion of Decency" - started by the Catholic Church & taken up by the Protestant churches & many other organizations.
Seeks a moral discriminator in pictures.

4) We need a Crusade of decency for the cleanup of fiction-writers, of the daily press, of social practices, of business itself.

In short we need to get back to God and practice a reverence for His standard of right living for us.

A century ago, Wordsworth wrote:

Milton! thou shouldst be living at this hour:
England hath need of thee: she is a fen
Of stagnant waters: altar, sword, and pen,
Fireside, the heroic wealth of hall and bower,
Have forfeited their ancient English dower
Of inward happiness. We are selfish men:
O! raise us up, return to us again;
And give us manners, virtue, freedom, power.
Thy soul was like a Star, and dwelt apart:
Thou hadst a voice whose sound was like the sea,
Pure as the naked heavens, majestic, free;
So didst thou travel on life's common way
In cheerful godliness; and yet thy heart
The lowliest duties on herself did lay.

Milton was a Puritan.

The popular conception of a Puritanism - a long-faced-long-haired, bill-joy with a Bible under ~~one~~ arm, censorious, pious praying on Sunday & preying on his neighbors the other 6 days of the week!

This conception is false!

Would to God the Lord would raise

5/ up more Miltons & Nehemiah &
Lamids & John Hamptons & Lautee
& Homers & ~~Lautee~~ & Cromwells
and others of their high moral
type.

To save civilization the world
has great need of them.

We need to do what King
Chomwell did to his Stanford team
before their game with the Trojans.

We need to go into retreat with God
and examine ourselves for the
correction of our false attitudes
which are preventing us ^{from} gaining
the victory in God's moral world.